

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-05 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

AGR-03 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /030 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8426

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1366

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, BU, OVIP (POPOV, IVAN)

SUBJECT: POPOV VISIT: SCHEDULING

REF: A) STATE 160742 B) SOFIA 1365

1. A. EPSTEIN COMPANIES, INC. OF CHICAGO ARE NEGOTIATING FOR TURNKEY PROJECT OF MEAT PROCESSING PLANT AND FEED MILL OPERATION IN BULGARIA WITH PRICE TAG APPROXIMATELY \$50 MILLION. IT IS OF MORE THAN PASSING INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH POPOV VISIT THAT ACCORDING TO CHAIM ALTBACH, VICE PRESIDENT OF EPSTEIN, A HIGH BULGARIAN OFFICIAL WITH WHOM HE IS CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS CONFIDED IN COURSE OF LUNCHEON THAT "WE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN DOING BUSINESS WITH THE US BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE USSR TO DO SO."

2. ALTBACH DURING CALL ON AMBASSADOR ALSO REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE BULGARIAN MEAT AGENCY, NENKO LECHEV (WHO IS A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF BCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE), EXPECTS TO BE INCLUDED IN POPOV DELEGATION AND WILL WISH TO VISIT THE EPSTEIN FIRM IN CHICAGO. WE THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE THIS IN PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE POPOV PARTY. CONTINENTAL BANK OF CHICAGO IS SUPPOSED TO BE READY TO ARRANGE THE FINANCING, AND INCLUDING THEM IN SCHEDULE WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE HELPFUL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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